



VailPlace

Vail House

Vail House is a 23-bed group residential housing (GRH) facility in SE Minneapolis providing transitional housing and support services. Services address the comprehensive needs of people who are homeless and living with mental illness and chemical dependency. A sober, supportive and healing environment is provided with a focus on skill-building to find and maintain stable, long-term housing, expand employment and educational opportunities, and successfully integrate with community life.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 21 individuals obtained employment and 27 moved into their own market-rate apartment.
- During 2019, the menu focused on healthy eating using Loaves and Fishes as a food vendor, saving over \$16,000.



“Living here has given me the opportunity to stay sober while working on myself and my goals. I am attending Summit Academy and have almost completed my IT certification, I’m working on getting my license back, and I’m healthy. I’ve never been this focused, supported, or motivated; this wouldn’t have been possible without the Vail House staff and community.”

— WM, VAIL HOUSE RESIDENT



We are:

*A community
Mothers & fathers
Sisters & brothers
Daughters & sons
Artists & musicians
Skilled & vital
Beautiful & brilliant
Important & valued
Strong & accomplished
Sober & healthy*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019 our goal was to make Vail House more of a home than a facility for the residents. We became more involved in our community by creating murals on our fence and joining the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association. We have added plants and decorated the house with resident art. We redecorated the kitchen; it now looks like a bistro with plants, art, and old-fashioned dining furniture.
- Another 2019 goal was to make our program more effective and efficient. We revised our intake process and waiting list, we developed more relationships with referral agencies, and became part of the financial team that focuses on VH funding.
- The Vail House community launched a Little Free Library. Residents donated books and built a structure to house the Library. For more information, follow the link or search by Charter #96811. (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>)
- In 2020 we faced COVID proactively by setting up virtual support groups, weekly check in meetings, and scheduled daily events and activities. We faced the George Floyd murder by pulling together and sharing with one another and the community; we created a mural in the street, planted flowers and a vegetable garden. Our slogan “we heal with the beauty we share with others”. With Stay Safe MN residents have started to work and go back to school again; we have five residents attending classes and one has returned to work. We also have individuals that attend outside meetings and treatments, mosque, and volunteering.
- As part of our COVID Safety Plan, we have taken great measures to ensure the safety of the Vail House community. We do extensive screening with our new intakes, we work with referring agencies to ensure they have COVID protocols, we quarantine each new resident and monitor their health. We do daily checks with our residents to ensure they are well and are proactive with any concerns of illness.
- During this time, we have expanded our referral base and utilize Hennepin Housing Key. In addition, 11 new residents have been able to enter the VH program safely during COVID. We have also created the financial team to monitor each resident's funding which has greatly cut down on lost revenue.